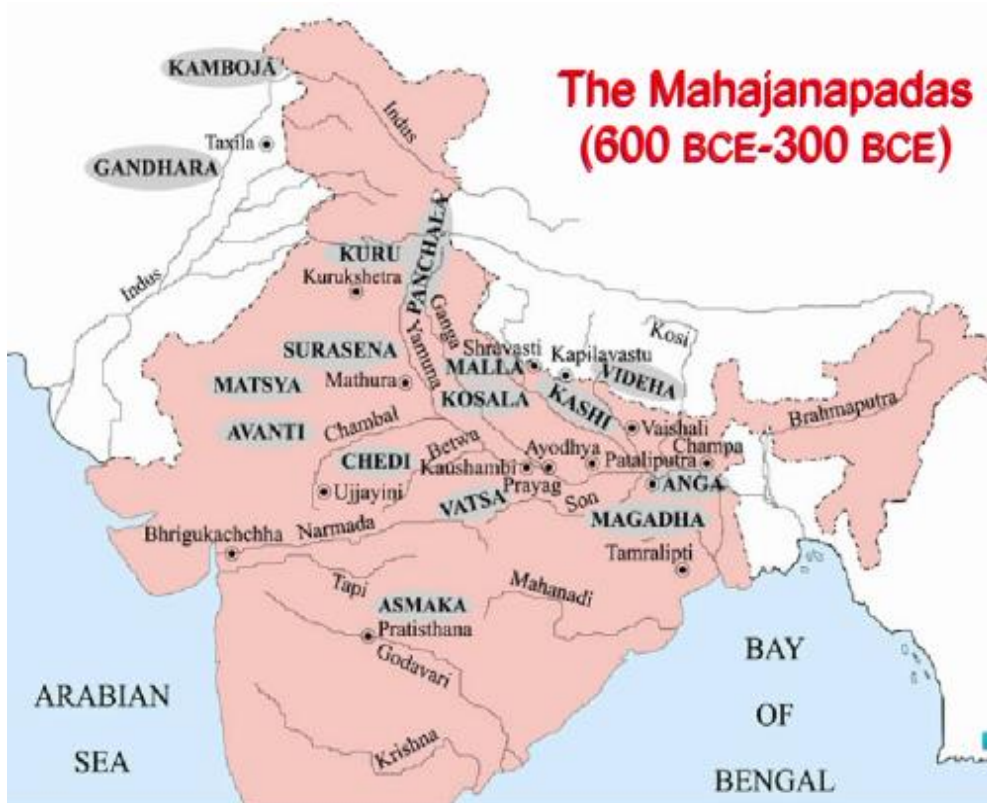


### Meta data of E-Content

S.N.	AREA OF META DATA	TO BE FILLED BY CONTENT GENERATOR
1	Theme	Rise of Mahajanapadas
2	Subject	History
3	Linkage of theme with chapter	Kings and an Early Republics
4	Class/Level	VI
5	Objectives	To help the learner understand the relevant reasons for the rise of Magadha as a Mahajanapada.
	Description	<p>The resource describes the rise of Mahajanapadas during the later Vedic period and focuses on the rise of the biggest of them all – Magadha. The resource is to give an insight about the reasons that led to the rise of this specific Mahajanapada and not the others, along with some images to make it visually appealing.</p> <p>In the resource, the suggested reasons for the rise of Magadha as a Mahajanapada have been pointed out and explained logically so that the child can relate to the reasons of its rise. 2 maps have been added to enable the child to locate the said place and make it appealing to the child. The resource begins with the description of how the Janapadas came into existence and how the political structure of ancient India appears to have started with semi-nomadic tribal units called Jana (meaning tribes). These units gave rise to territorial states (Janapada) which literally means the foothold of a tribe. Then I have traced the rise of Mahajanapadas which were actually the more powerful Janapadas out of all of the rest. Of these 16 bigger Janapadas or Mahajanapadas, only Magadha was the one that turned out to be supremely powerful and was able to extend its empire and boundaries in all directions. Then, the resource discusses the 4 main reasons for the rise of Magadha, which include the following: the fertile alluvial plains of the Gangetic basin on which Magadha was located proved to be very fertile and agriculturally productive for the people of Magadha enhancing its prosperity. The second reason was the strategic position of its capital – Pataliputra which was secure from attacks from 3 sides by mountains and was centrally located for better administration. The third reason were the powerful, intelligent and politically astute rulers like Bimbisara and Ajatasattu who took all the right decisions and made the right alliances for political stability of their kingdom. The fourth and last reason was the abundance of iron ore in Magadha due to the mines that dotted the kingdom. This ensured regular supply of iron for making better agricultural implements and enough iron to arm the military of the kingdom and making it immune to attacks.</p>
7	Key Words	Janapada, Mahajanapada, implements, iron ore, tribal, alluvial plain, political stronghold, Gangetic basin, strategic location, alliances, stability
8	Content Developer person	Ananta Prasad Chowdhury
9	Subject Coordinator	Mily Roy Anand
10	CIET Coordinator	Indu Kumar

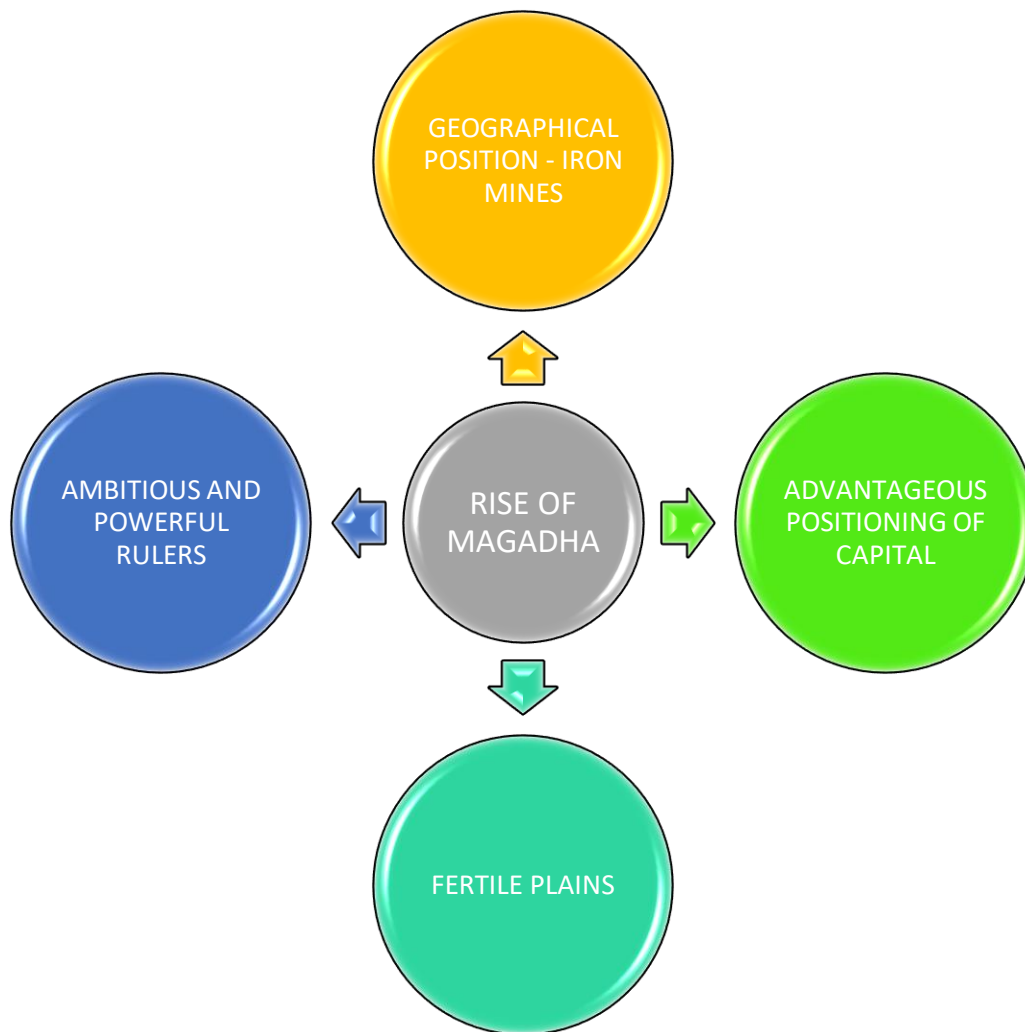
## KINGDOMS AND EARLY REPUBLIC RESOURCE - 1



The political structure of ancient India appears to have started with semi-nomadic tribal units called Jana (meaning “people” or “tribe”). The tribal political organisation (Jana) of the Rig Vedic period gave rise to territorial states (Janapada). The term “Janapada” literally means the foothold of a tribe.

- Defined by Kautilya in his book Arthashastra, a kingdom / state was supposed to work by 7 principles. The king, the minister, the country, the fortified city, the treasury, the army and the ally are important elements of the state.
- From the sixth century B.C. onwards, the widespread use of iron in eastern Uttar Pradesh and Western Bihar, led to the formation of large territorial states which were better equipped militarily and in which warrior class played the main role.
- New agricultural tools and implements enabled the farmers to produce a good amount of agricultural surplus which not only fed the ruling class but also supported numerous towns. Towns came into existence as industry and trade became important to the economy of the Ganges plains.
- In this period, the entire northern territory north of the Vindhyas and extending from the North-West frontier to Bihar was divided into sixteen states called Mahajanapadas. These Mahajanapadas were either monarchical or republican in character.

Out of the 16 Mahajanapadas, Magadha was ultimately the most powerful one in the whole subcontinent. But how did that happen? Why was Magadha the most powerful and what were the reasons for its rise?



**Geographical positioning of Magadha:**Magadha had an advantage of geographical position, for the iron mines were located around Rajgir and Pataliputra (Patna). Iron was necessary for an all-round advancement – including weapons for the army, better tools and implements for agriculture, better utensils and daily use implements for the common people. So the Mahajanapada prospered more than the ones who did not have easy access to iron mines.

Note to CIET:  
When the student clicks on the bubbles the following information should crop up:



Coins from Magadhan era showing the extensive use of iron.

**Advantageous positioning of its capital – Patna:**Magadha's capital Pataliputra, now called Patna was located in a very advantageous position, impregnable because of natural barrier with mountains on three sides. The capital city Pataliputra was situated on the confluence of major rivers like Ganga, Son, Punpun and Gandak.This meant better trading opportunities for the capital and ensured prosperity.



The ruins  
of  
Pataliputra.



**Fertile plains:** Magadha geographically was located at the centre of the Gangetic plain. This fertile area was very favourable for agriculture. It helped produce enough surplus to help feed the people, the nobility as well as enough for trade to help the rulers fill their treasury.The alluvial plains of this region and its proximity to the iron rich areas of Bihar and Jharkhand helped the kingdom to develop good quality weapons and support the agrarian economy. These factors helped Magadha to emerge as the most prosperous state of that period.



# Magadha 5 B.C



The above map shows the spread of the Magadhan empire.

**Ambitious and powerful rulers:** Magadha's success was also due to appearance of several energetic and ambitious rulers who put all their means to extend and strengthen Magadha. It was ruled at first by King Bimbisara and afterwards by his son king Ajatasattu. Both these rulers have been considered to be very intelligent politically and took many steps to ensure the political well-being of Magadha. They conquered important regions in and around their state either by battles or by marriage alliances.

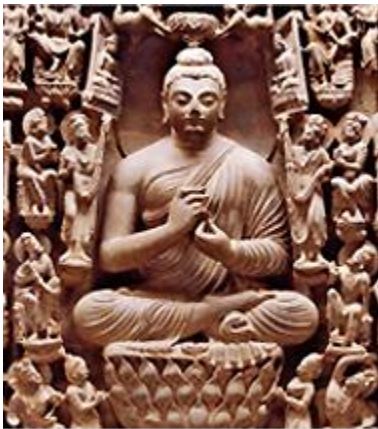


## BIMBISARA JAIL – RAJGIR (BIHAR)



### ACTIVITY

Identify the Mahajanapada using the clues given below:



1. **Figurine of Gautam Buddha**

..... school of Art and architecture.

(Ans: Gandhara)





2. Coins found at Ujjaini.

..... was previously known as Avantirāṭṭha and its capital was Ujjaini.

(Ans: Avanti)



3. .... Was the most prosperous kingdom located on the confluence of major rivers like Ganga, Son, Punpun and Gandak.

(Ans: Magadh)



4. Located on the banks of the river Ganga, ..... Was also known as Varanasi.

(Ans: Kashi)